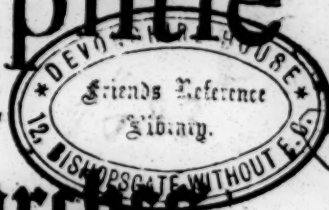


20.

TO THE



To be spread abroad amongst all professing Christianity; for a
Warning to some, and an Incouragement to others.

This is a Trying Day, that is coming upon all the Earth, and the Inhabitants of the World, and of the Sea, a day of *Anguish* and unexpected *Calamity* shall overtake them unawares : For the day of *Recompence* is at hand ; the Lord is drawing his glittering *Sword*, and his Arm shall devour *Flesh* ; he will avenge him of his *Enemies*, and recompence it to his Adversaries ; a day of *terror*,

A

As I told you, I'm in words & in
And when thou speak, speak wisely, just & true
I'll defend thee rest, rest & I'll defend thee
I'll defend thee rest, rest & I'll defend thee

George, Esq. of
Westford

a day of shaking, a day of trembling, of winnowing and sifting: and a *Consumption of all Flesh*, such as never was upon the Earth, every man's hands upon his Loyns, as a Woman in Travel, *because the day shall burn as an Oven, and shall leave neither Root, nor Branch.* Do they consult? It shall not stand. Do they take Counsel? It shall come to nought. For the Lord is on his way, as a Gyant refreshed with *Wine*; and as a Mighty Man of War, he shall thrash the Nations.

Blessed are they that fly unto the Living God for Refuge, and put their trust in the Arm of his Salvation, that look over all these *Commotions* that shall come upon the Earth: where *Distress, Confusion, Contradiction, Confusion of Language and understanding, Jealousies, Mistrust, Falseness, betraying and devouring, and a breaking and defeating of the Wise-Societies, and Combinations*, shall be: all the Wisdom of the Wise is confounded and betrayed, to his own Shame and Desolation.

Therefore look not out, for then *Thoughts, Fears, and Doubts* enter, and *Mistrusts* of God and his Sufficiency are let in, and the great Adversary of Man's Peace hearkened to, and *Carnal Reason*, which will cry, *Master, pity thy self, save thy self*, and yet knows not where to turn for *Safety*. But look unto the Lord, that hath called you forth of Darkness, and visited you and your Fathers, when you sate in *Darkness, and under the Region of the Shadow of Death*, by the message of the Light of his glorious Gospel; and remember how he led you, and covered your heads in the day of storm; how he gave you Strength, a Mouth, and Wisdom, and Courage in the day of your *Humiliation, Simplicity, and Tendernefs*, when you fought the Lord in all things, and that he went in and out before you, and you waited for his dayly directions, and counselled all thereunto in themselves, that they all might come to be taught of the Lord, and know the Lord, from the least of the People to the greatest. Oh! consider then, and let it rent your hearts, and humble you continually within your selves, to follow on still, to know the Lord, and to look unto the Author of our *Salvation* in all things: stand still, stand still: Who is this that saith, *I have done this? This was by my Wisdom, my Counsel, my Labour, my Understanding, I have brought this to pass*; This will the Lord overthrow, and all the *Carved Images*, all the pleasant *Pictures*, all the fair *Buildings*, all the wise Platforms of *Structures*, the Lord will overthrow, that none may be exalted, or glory in any

any thing, but dayly dependency on the Lord, and following on, to know more of him ; and not glorying, that Spirits are (through his Name) made subject (when *Satan* descends like Lightning) but rather that your Names are written in Heaven.

Dwell in the Faith, for it is written, *The Just shall live by Faith*. And it is *Faith* in the Son of God *Christ Jesus*, which hath caused his *Light* to shine in our hearts, that overcame the World first ; and all that did, and do overcome the World, and in the end are crowned with Victory, overcome through *Faith* in his Name, that was, is, and is yet to come. Oh ! stand stedfast, without wavering, be faithful unto Death, and he will give the Crown of Life ; watch against that which would lead the Mind from *Stillness* and *Quietness*, watch against Thoughts and Words, and multitudes of Cares, under pretence of *Serving* God and his Truth : for *Christ* saith, *Without me ye can do nothing* : and exhorts his Disciples *not to be Careful*, and reproveth *Martha* (a Member of the *True Church*) for her being too much troubled with *Serving*, and complaining of her Sister to him ; and reproveth *Peter*, that thought carnally in taking upon him to admonish his Lord, though it was his Love to his *Master*, yet it was also his Ignorance (of the Purpose and Fore determination of God) and his Presumption that caused him to err. Therefore it is in Patient Learning, that every one must possess their own Souls : and having the Loyns of their *Minds* girded, and their *Lamps* trimmed, wait for the coming of their Lord, who will come, and his Reward is with him, to give to every one of his *Servants*, according to the Works he hath commanded from them to be done. Blessed are they that are watching and sober, that are not drunk with *Pride*, with *Vain-Glory*, with *Preheminence* ; nor, are not choaked, nor surfeited, nor byassed from the known Will and Mind of the Lord, for Honour and Greatness-sake which is an empty Name : *And how can you believe* (saith *Christ*) *that receive Honour one from another, and not the Honour that cometh from God only*. And then are found taking their Fellow Servant by the Throat, and *beating*, *reproaching*, *nick-naming*, *slandering*, *contemning*, and casting forth as *Dung* to be trodden upon. Oh ! the Lord is coming, that will cut you asunder, and will give you your Portion with *Hypocrites* ; yea, *Abusers* of his *Trust*, you *Renters* of his *Church*, for which he died, ye *proud Scoffers*, *heady high-minded*, *Daubers*, and *Flatterers* amongst all People,

ple repent, or the Lord will be dreadful unto you ; you have gone in the way of *Cain*, killing the *Just*, in the Tyranny of *Nimrod*, hunting before the Lord : ye *Gyants*, and *mighty Men*, the Lord will cut you off, ye are in the way of *Corah*, *Dathan*, and *Abiram*, that resist the Truth, and lay occasions of stumbling, and Offences before the Weak, causing the Offence of the *Cross* to cease, ye that render *Reviling* for *Reviling* ; ye spiteful, venomous *Bespat-terers* of one another, to the Shame and Scorn of the World. You manifest what generation you are of, you *Intruders*, that have not the *Wedding Garment* on, but the Rags of Self-conceitedness, and swelling Thoughts, and abounding of your own naughty unmortified *Wisdom*, carnal, sensual, and devilish : the Lord is a swift Witness against you all, you *Renters*, and *Sowers* of *Discord*, *Whisperers*, *Tale-bearers*, and *Backbiters*, *Disturbers* of *Societies*, *Families*, *Nations*, *Kingdoms*, *Princes*, and *People*, the Lord will root you out, and take away your false Covering of pretended *Religion*, and you shall be a hissing to all People.

But all that love the Lord, and all that seek his Face and love his Appearance, and that nothing, whatever the pretence be, can content, or cause you to take up a *Rest*, short of the Lords comfortable, inwardly refreshing, Soul-satisfying Presence, who only speaks Peace to his People, that they turn not again to Folly. Oh ! dear Brethren, those words of the *Messiah*, are often as an Alarm sounded in my Ears, *When the Son of Man comes, shall he find Faith upon the Earth ?* Itell you, *Nay* : Oh ! how much talk to little purpose ? How much Profession, and how little Faith in the World ? Therefore awake to *Righteousness*, all you that sleep, that Christ may give you Life ; and be not slothful and negligent, saying in heart, *The Lord delays his coming* ; and a heart of Unbelief enter you, take heed of a Spirit of Sleep and Slumber ; or, of easiness to joyn and comply with the Spirit of this World, through Discontentedness ; Oh ! whether can you go ? Have you not heard him to speak to your Souls ? whil'st your hearts melted within you, at his Love and Glory, that has the words of Eternal Life ; therefore draw near to the Lord, and he will come, that shall come and will not tarry : yet a little while, and *Satan* shall be trodden under foot.

Be not dismay'd, these things happening, are not Temptations, otherwise than what in some respect, have come for a Tryal amongst all God's People ; as ye may read in Christ's words, which

which warned his Disciples against those that cry, *Lo here, and Lo there*; bidding his not to go forth: and the *Apostles* in their *Epistles*, speaking of *Intruders*: and as there were *False Prophets* amongst the *Jewish-Church*, so should there be *False Teachers* amongst them, which unawares, should bring in *damnable Doctrine*, denying the Lord that bought them. Now, this was spoken of those, that erring from the *Spirit*, the *Comforter* and *Leader* into all *Truth*, should set up the *Form of Godliness*, denying the *Power*. And here hath been the *Apostacy* amongst the *JEW*S and *CHRISTIANS*, the one, and the other falling to *Idolatry*, under a Pretence of God's Worship, and owning Christ, but denying the Sufficiency of his *Spiritual* and *Inward Government*, have set up their own *Inventions* and *Commandments*, and then have imposed *Conformity* and *Uniformity* thereunto: then there hath been produced amongst all such People, *Strife*, *Hatred*, *Scorn*, *Wrath*, *Malice*, *Revenge*, *Fury*, *Disdain*, &c. and who got the *Carnal Weapon*, Bodily Persecution over all the rest. And thus the *Myſtery Babylon*, the Mother of *Harlots*, and abomination of the whole Earth, has wrought, and *High* and *Low*, *Rich* and *Poor*, have been made drunk and quarrellsome with the Cup of her *Fornications*, as *Satan* transformed, and intruding amongst the Sons of God, in his transformed, unreforming Ministers, hath exalted himself in the Temple of God, over all that may be called God, pretending to give *Rules* and *Laws* to the People in *Spiritual Things*, how to walk; and then his Kingdom in the *Mystery*, in *Pride*, *Lordliness*, and *Flattery*, *Presumptuousness*, *High-mindedness*, &c. hath again gone forward: therefore, where-ever this shall be, it is naught, and the time of its stately Reign is drawing near unto an end; for the Lord of the *Vineyard* will come himself, and will gather his into the Divine Unity; which all the *Righteous* in all Ages have waited for, and in Faith, see it afar off, and rested in hope together with us, to be made intire, compleat, and perfected in him, who is the Resurrection and Life Eternal.

But Oh! you distressed, and not forsaken; you afflicted, but never forgotten of the Lord, you Children of *Zion*, for whom the Lord is on his way; you that have no helper in the Earth, but for your Testimony-sake to the Lord, are set as *Butts*, to shoot at, by the Proud and haughty of the Earth. Ah! the Lord will espouse you in Righteousness, and everlasting Loving Kindness to himself. Be not dismay'd, the day of your Redemption draws near,

near, lift up your heads and rejoyce, *for all tears shall be wiped away from your Eyes*. They that touch you, touch the *Apple* of the Lord's Eye; for which he will rebuke Nations, and distress many People; keep on your way, in which the Lord hath called, and led you by his *Grace* and *Spirit* to walk in; love the Simplicity of the Gospel, love one another unfeignedly, bridle the tongue, condescend to them of low degree, serve one another in love, and without upbraiding; have *Salt* in your selves, to savour withal, *for great is the Mystery of Ungodliness*, but it has been well with the Upright in heart in all Ages and Generations, when the Wise and Crafty have been taken in their own Snare. The Wisdom of Men favours not the things of God, and this intruding and getting place, having Men's Persons in Admiration, have bred disturbance, and wise men (so called) have made work, with opposition of *Science* (falsly so called) one against another, troubling the Peace of the Lord's People, and ought to be avoided and shun'd, for it hath stumbled the weak. Therefore eye the Lord, and hold the Unity in the Spirit; which *Spirit of Truth* is the bond of Perfection: And all keep out of the ways of the World, the Rock of our Salvation is the same, which will not permit any of us to be tryed (if we do abide in his Counsel) further than what we (he assisting) shall be able to bear, and all our troubles shall turn to our Good: the Lord will turn the Wrath of Man to our Good. Therefore hold fast what you have received of the Lord, and let a *Spirit* of Mercy and Tendernefs compass you about; and of such as fall, have Compassion, making a difference; for some are betrayed as a *Bird* in the snare of the *Fowler*; unto whom the Lords tender Bowels are open, and he will never forget the Love of their Youth, but will pluck them as brands out of the Fire.

But that which is naught, is naught, and Flattery will not cover it, for all it can turn and face about as the *Camellion*. Ah! the Lord will gather the bruised, and the *Out-casts* of *Israel*. Oh! my heart is glad, I could shout for Joy, in a sense of the *Messiah* entring (upon his being proclaimed) into *Jerusalem*, though this was not known to the Wife of the *Jewish-Church*; their eyes were, for our good, held. Oh! what a day of gladness to all that wait for *Salvation*, is a coming, a day without Clouds to them that mourn now, and have been afflicted for Righteousness sake, with a day of unutterable and endless Rejoycing: but to the World, of *Wee*, that for lying Vanities, neglect so great *Salvation*, &c. Rejoyce, O Daughter of

of Zion, behold thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an Ass, and a Colt, the Foal of an Ass.

So all look to him, of whom the *Brazen Serpent* in the Wilderness was a Figure; for the People having sinned, and being bitten by *Scorpions*, and dying of the wounds, they were in great Fear and Distress; and the Lord commanded *Moses* (for he did only the Lord's Will) to set the *Serpent*, made in *Brass*, upon a Pole on high, that so all the whole Congregation of *Israel* might behold it. And so it was, that whosoever was bitten, looking upon the *brazen Serpent*, was immediately healed, and dyed not: so was Christ lifted up, on a *Tree*, or *Cross*; and as *Moses* lift up the *Serpent* in the Wilderness, Christ being thus lifted up, will draw all men after him; and whosoever looks upon him, and believes in him, they are cleansed and healed, and delivered from the Old Serpent, the Devil, and all his Baits and Wildes can in no wise pluck them out of his hands, that by his *Light*, *Spirit*, and *Grace*, do believe in him, they have Life Eternal through Faith in his Name, and knows him in Spiritual Things, now to rule over them, and acknowledge him *Law-giver* unto them, that brings them out of all Strife, Wars, Divisions, and Sidings, or making Parties in this World, loving and seeking the good, the present and eternal Welfare of all men, from the King on the Throne, to the poorest Person in his Kingdoms, bearing Testimony in Practice, and in Doctrine, against all that shall do otherwise, knowing the Earth is the Lord's, and that by him Kings do reign.

Therefore let all approve themselves to the Lord, and that of God in the Consciences of all men, that we pass the time as Sojourners here in fear, knowing that here we have no continuing City, but that we seek one eternal in the Heavens, whose Builder and Maker is God: And that having a *High Priest* that is holy and harmless to make intercession for us: a *Prophet*, that continually (by his Spirit) teacheth us: and a *Spiritual King* to reign in our Hearts and Consciences. Let all take him for their Example, who did not come to do his own Will, but the Will of his Father that sent him, unto whom the Father hath given all Power in Heaven, and in Earth, and hath said to all in the voice, from the excellent Glory, from the holy Mountain; *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him.*

Little Children, keep yourselves from IDOLS. Amen.

Written the 6th. of the 7th. Month, 1683.

6th 7th Month 1683

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George Wyman

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